

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1 1. A system for controlling real-time transport protocol flow through multiple
 2 networks via use of a media flow routing, comprising:
 3 a first computer connected to a second computer, via a plurality of associated computers,
 4 wherein each of said first computer, said second computer, and said plurality of associated
 5 computers comprise;
 6 a transceiver;
 7 software stored therein defining functions to be performed; and
 8 a processor configured by said software to perform the steps of,
 9 performing an inbound screen on route information received from said
 10 second computer, to determine if said received route information should be discarded,
 11 if said route information is not discarded, comparing said received and
 12 screened route information to a local policy defined within said first computer, and
 13 selecting a primary route from said received route information and local
 14 route information in accordance with said local policy, wherein said primary route is a path from
 15 said first computer to said second computer via said plurality of associated computers.

1 2. The system of claim 1, wherein each of said plurality of associated computers is
 2 capable of receiving said received and screened route information and transmitting said
 3 information to another of said plurality of associated computers in a path to said second

4 computer, such that a real-time transport protocol flow is divided between each of said plurality
5 of associated computers.

1 3. The system of claim 1, wherein said received route information is provided within
2 a telephony routing over Internet protocol (TRIP) update message.

1 4. The system of claim 1, wherein said local policy is stored on a storage unit that is
2 capable of storing internal route information and route information from said received and
3 screened route information.

1 5. The system of claim 4, wherein each of said computers is further configured by
2 their respective software to perform the step of, selecting said primary route from a group of
3 routes comprising said internal route information and said received and screened route
4 information.

1 6. The system of claim 5, wherein said processor is further configured by said
2 software to perform the step of, processing a received session initiation protocol (SIP) invite
3 message that is received on said primary route.

1 7. The system of claim 5, wherein said processor is further configured by said
2 software to perform the step of, performing an outbound screen on said received and screened
3 information prior to transmitting said received and screened route information to said first

4 computer, wherein said outbound screen is performed on said primary route prior to said
5 transceiver transmitting said primary route.

1 8. The system of claim 1, wherein said local policy comprises an activate date and
2 time field that defines a date and time for said local policy to be enabled by said processor.

1 9. The system of claim 1, wherein said local policy comprises a de-activate date and
2 time field that defines a date and time for said local policy to be disabled by said processor.

1 10. The system of claim 1, wherein said local policy comprises an origin field.

1 11. The system of claim 10, wherein said processor is further configured by said
2 memory to perform the function of, comparing said origin field within said local policy to an
3 origin attribute comprised by said received route information, if said received route information
4 comprises said origin attribute, and utilizing said local policy if said origin attribute at least
5 partially matches said origin field

1 12. The system of claim 3, wherein said processor is further configured by said
2 memory to perform the function of, utilizing said local policy if said TRIP update message does
3 not comprise an origin attribute.

13. The system of claim 11, wherein the format of said origin attribute and said origin field conforms to E.164 style addresses, Internet style addresses, SIP telephone addresses, or non-SIP telephone addresses.

14. The system of claim 1, wherein said local policy comprises a destination field.

15. The system of claim 14, wherein said processor is further configured by said software to perform the step of, comparing said destination field within said local policy to a destination attribute comprised by said received route information, if said received route information comprises said destination attribute, and utilizing said local policy if said destination attribute at least partially matches said destination field.

16. The system of claim 15, wherein the format of said destination attribute and said destination field conforms to E.164 style addresses, Internet style addresses, SIP telephone addresses, or non-SIP telephone addresses.

17. The system of claim 1, wherein said local policy comprises a carrier field that identifies a number of carriers from which said route information will be accepted.

18. The system of claim 17, wherein said processor is further configured by said software to perform the step of, discarding said received route information if a carrier attribute comprised by said received route information does not match at least one carrier identified by said carrier field.

1 19. The system of claim 1, wherein said local policy comprises a cost field that
2 identifies an acceptable range of cost to be billed for use of a route.

1 20. The system of claim 19, wherein said processor is further configured by said
2 software to perform the step of, discarding said received route information if a cost attribute
3 comprised by said received route information does not fall within said acceptable range of cost
4 identified by said cost field.

1 21. The system of claim 1, wherein said local policy comprises a quality of service
2 (QoS) field that identifies an acceptable range of QoS associated with use of a route.

1 22. The system of claim 21, wherein said processor is further configured by said
2 software to perform the step of, discarding said received route information if a QoS attribute
3 comprised by said received route information does not fall within said acceptable range of QoS
4 cost identified by said QoS field.

1 23. A method of controlling real-time transport protocol flow via use of media flow
2 routing, comprising the steps of:
3 receiving information regarding a route from a first computer to a second computer, via a
4 plurality of associated computers;
5 performing an inbound screen on said route information received from said first
6 computer, to determine if said received route information should be discarded;
7 if said route information is not discarded, comparing said received and screened route
8 information to a local policy; and
9 selecting a primary route from said received route information and local route
10 information in accordance with said local policy, wherein said primary route is a path from said
11 second computer to said first computer via said plurality of associated computers.

1 24. The method of claim 23, wherein said route is for ranges that conform to E.164
2 style numbering, Internet style addresses of endpoints, SIP telephone addresses, or non-SIP
3 telephone addresses.

1 25. The method of claim 23, wherein each of said plurality of associated computers is
2 capable of receiving said received and screened route information and transmitting said
3 information to another of said plurality computers in a path to said first computer, such that a
4 real-time transport protocol flow is divided between each of said plurality of associated
5 computers.

1 26. The method of claim 23, further comprising the step of processing a received
2 session initiation protocol (SIP) invite message that is received on said primary route.

1 27. The method of claim 23, further comprising the step of performing an outbound
2 screen on said received and screened route information prior to transmitting said received and
3 screened information, wherein said outbound screening is performed on said primary route prior
4 to transmitting said primary route.

1 28. The method of claim 23, further comprising the step of enabling said local policy
2 on a specified date and at a specified time in accordance with an activate date and time field
3 defined by said local policy.

1 29. The method of claim 23, further comprising the step of disabling said local policy
2 on a specified date and at a specified time in accordance with a de-activate date and time field
3 defined by said local policy.

1 30. The method of claim 23, wherein said local policy comprises an origin field.

1 31. The method of claim 30, further comprising the step of comparing said origin
2 field within said local policy to an origin attribute comprised by said received route information,
3 if said received route information comprises said origin attribute, and utilizing said local policy if
4 said origin attribute at least partially matches said origin field.

1 32. The method of claim 31, wherein the format of said origin attribute and said
2 origin field conforms to E.164 style addresses, Internet style addresses, SIP telephone addresses,
3 or non-SIP telephone addresses.

1 33. The method of claim 23, wherein said route information is provided within a
2 telephony routing over Internet protocol (TRIP) update message.

1 34. The method of claim 23, wherein said local policy comprises a destination field.

1 35. The method of claim 34, further comprising the step of comparing said
2 destination field within said local policy to a destination attribute within said received route
3 information, if said received route information comprises said destination attribute, and utilizing
4 said local policy if said destination attribute at least partially matches said destination field.

1 36. The method of claim 31, wherein the format of said destination attribute and said
2 destination field conforms to E.164 style addresses, Internet style addresses, SIP telephone
3 addresses or non-SIP telephone addresses.

1 37. The method of claim 23, wherein said local policy comprises a carrier field that
2 identifies a number of carriers from which said route information will be accepted.

1 38. The method of claim 37, further comprising the step of discarding said received
2 route information if a carrier attribute comprised by said received route information does not
3 match at least one carrier identified by said carrier field.

1 39. The method of claim 23, wherein said local policy comprises a cost field that
2 identifies an acceptable range of cost to be billed for use of a route.

1 40. The method of claim 39, further comprising the step of discarding said received
2 route information if a cost attribute comprised by said received route information does not fall
3 within said acceptable range of cost identified by said cost field.

1 41. The method of claim 23, wherein said local policy comprises a quality of service
2 (QoS) field that identifies an acceptable range of QoS associated with use of a route.

1 42. The system of claim 41, further comprising the step of discarding said received
2 route information if a QoS attribute comprised by said received route information does not fall
3 within said acceptable range of QoS cost identified by said QoS field.

1 43. A system for controlling real-time transport protocol flow via use of a media flow
2 routing, comprising:

3 means for receiving information regarding a route from a first computer to a second
4 computer, via a plurality of associated computers;

5 means for performing an inbound screen on said route information received from said
6 first computer which determines if said received route information should be discarded;

7 means for comparing said received and screened route information to a local policy
8 stored within said second computer if said route information is not discarded; and

9 means for selecting a primary route from said received route information and local route
10 information in accordance with said local policy, wherein said primary route is a path from said
11 second computer to said first computer via said plurality of associated computers.

1 44. The system of claim 43, wherein said route is for ranges that conform to E.164
2 style numbering, Internet style addresses of endpoints, SIP telephone addresses, or non-SIP
3 telephone addresses.

1 45. The system of claim 43, wherein each of said plurality of associated computers is
2 capable of receiving said received and screened route information and transmitting said
3 information to another of said associated computers in a path to said first computer, such that a
4 real-time transport protocol flow is divided between each of said plurality of associated
5 computers.

1 46. The system of claim 43, further comprising a means for processing a received
2 session initiation protocol (SIP) invite message that is received on said primary route.

1 47. The system of claim 43, further comprising a means for performing an outbound
2 screen on said received and screened route information, which performs said outbound screen
3 prior to transmitting said received and screened information to said first computer and wherein
4 said means for performing an outbound screen performs outbound screening on said primary
5 route prior to transmitting said primary route.

1 48. The system of claim 43, further comprising a means for enabling said local policy
2 on a specified date and at a specified time in accordance with an activate date and time field
3 defined by said local policy.

1 49. The system of claim 43, further comprising a means for disabling said local policy
2 on a specified date and at a specified time in accordance with a de-activate date and time field
3 defined by said local policy.

1 50. The system of claim 43, wherein said local policy comprises an origin field.

1 51. The system of claim 50, further comprising a means for comparing said origin
2 field within said local policy to an origin attribute within said received route information,
3 wherein said means for comparing compares if said received route information comprises said
4 origin attribute, and utilizes said local policy if said origin attribute at least partially matches said
5 origin field.

1 52. The system of claim 51, wherein the format of said origin attribute and said origin
2 field conforms to E.164 style addresses, Internet style addresses, SIP telephone addresses, or
3 non-SIP telephone addresses.

1 53. The system of claim 43, wherein said route information is provided within a
2 telephony routing over Internet protocol (TRIP) update message.

1 54. The system of claim 43, wherein said local policy comprises a destination field.

1 55. The system of claim 54, further comprising a means for comparing said
2 destination field within said local policy to a destination attribute within said received route
3 information, wherein said means for comparing compares if said received route information
4 comprises said destination attribute, and utilizes said local policy if said destination attribute at
5 least partially matches said destination field.

1 56. The system of claim 51, wherein the format of said destination attribute and said
2 destination field conforms to E.164 style addresses, Internet style addresses, SIP telephone
3 addresses, or non-SIP telephone addresses.

1 57. The system of claim 53, wherein said local policy comprises a carrier field that
2 identifies a number of carriers from which said route information will be accepted.

1 58. The system of claim 57, further comprising a means for discarding said received
2 route information if a carrier attribute within said received route information does not match at
3 least one carrier identified by said carrier field.

1 59. The system of claim 43, wherein said local policy comprises a cost field that
2 identifies an acceptable range of cost to be billed for use of a route.

1 60. The system of claim 59, further comprising a means for discarding said received
2 route information if a cost attribute within said received route information does not fall within
3 said acceptable range of cost identified by said cost field.

1 61. The system of claim 43, wherein said local policy comprises a quality of service
2 (QoS) field that identifies an acceptable range of QoS associated with use of a route.

1 62. The system of claim 61, further comprising a means for discarding said received
2 route information if a QoS attribute within said received route information does not fall within
3 said acceptable range of QoS cost identified by said QoS field.